

Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have been focusing on the issue of livable communities and how we can create better partnerships between the Federal Government, State and local governments and our citizens. As amended this bill will increase input from local communities while preserving important national landmarks.

The 1906 Antiquities Act has served our nation well for almost a century. It has led to the preservation of the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Grand Teton National Parks. These sites have great environmental importance, they add to our nation's heritage, and through tourism they are an important part of local economies. This legislation would ensure that the President continues to have the authority to designate monuments, while giving communities a larger voice in the process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1487, the Public Participation in the Declaration of National Monuments Act.